

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 164

Introduced by Assembly Member Goldberg

August 14, 2006

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 164—Relative to school mascots.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 164, as introduced, Goldberg. School mascots: Native American mascots.

This measure would request the California Interscholastic Federation to adopt policies that are consistent with the National Collegiate Athletic Association policies relative to the use of Native American mascots and any other hostile or abusive racial, ethnic, or national origin mascot.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Numerous individuals and organizations
2 interested and experienced in the area of human relations,
3 including the United States Commission on Civil Rights, have
4 concluded that the continued use of Native American images and
5 nicknames in schools and athletic teams perpetuate
6 misinformation, engender racial division, and establish a hostile
7 learning environment that is intimidating and dehumanizing to
8 many American Indian pupils; and
9 WHEREAS, The use of racially hostile or abusive school or
10 athletic team names, mascots, or nicknames in California public
11 schools is antithetical to the mission of providing an equal
12 educational opportunity to all; and

1 WHEREAS, California public schools are places where
2 diverse groups of people come together to learn not only reading,
3 writing, and arithmetic, but also how to interact respectfully with
4 people from different cultures; and

5 WHEREAS, Hostile or abusive Native American nicknames
6 and images in public school sports is only one front of the larger
7 battle to eliminate obstacles that confront American Indians and
8 to provide equal education to all groups; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Collegiate Athletic Association
10 (NCAA) has adopted a policy, effective February 1, 2006, that,
11 among other things, prohibits member colleges and universities
12 from displaying or promoting hostile or abusive racial, ethnic, or
13 national origin mascots, nicknames, or imagery at any NCAA
14 championship event in order to adhere to the core values of the
15 NCAA Constitution, pertaining to cultural diversity, ethical
16 sportsmanship, and nondiscrimination; and

17 WHEREAS, The NCAA Executive Committee encourages
18 member institutions to educate their internal and external
19 constituents on the understanding and awareness of the negative
20 impact of hostile and abusive references and remove these
21 depictions and to create a greater level of knowledge of Native
22 American culture through outreach efforts and other means of
23 communication; and

24 WHEREAS, The California Interscholastic Federation is a
25 voluntary organization that consists of school and school related
26 personnel with responsibility for administering and implementing
27 policies concerning interscholastic athletic activities in secondary
28 schools; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
31 hereby requests the California Interscholastic Federation to adopt
32 policies that are consistent with the National Collegiate Athletic
33 Association policies relative to the use of hostile or abusive
34 Native American mascots and any other hostile or abusive racial,
35 ethnic, or national origin mascot; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
37 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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